

An Essay  
on the  
Pathology and Treatment of  
Croup,  
Respectfully submitted to the Faculty  
of the.

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An Essay  
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Pathology and Treatment of Croup.

Croup is an affection peculiar to the period of childhood, seldom attacking those of more than 12 years of age. It is an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the trachea, often accompanied with the production of false membranes. The trachea is considered by most pathologists to be the genuine seat of Croup, but the inflammation often extends into the larynx and from thence into the bronchia and their ramifications.

The mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea, particularly the latter, is found to exhibit, on post mortem examination the ordinary signs of inflammation. The most striking phenomenon in this disease is, that the

Trachea, especially below the inferior ligaments of the Larynx, is lined by a pseudo membranous exudation, of a light greyish color, and which is composed of albumen and fibrin. The thickness of this membrane varies according to the severity of the inflammation. It seldom exceeds the fourth of a line, though in some instances it is the eighth or tenth of an inch.

Like inflammation, the pseudo membranous exudation may, and generally does, in severe cases of Croup extend ~~into~~ to the Larynx, and from thence into the bronchia, becoming gradually softer and more delicate, until finally it appears in the binary and ternary tubes, like a mucous film. Generally, however, this membranous formation does not exist in the Larynx for any great length of time, owing to the facility with which it can be expectorated; whilst the narrowness formed by the inferior ligaments,

prevents the ready escape of that which is  
 thrown out in the trachea and bronchia. The  
 false membrane may either form a continuous  
 lamellae throughout the course of the air passages,  
 or be in detached portions, blended with mucus,  
 or flocculi of albuminous substance. It is often  
 detached from the mucous membrane by the  
 secretion of a purulent or mucopurulent substance;  
 at other times it adheres to the mucous membrane  
 with considerable pertinacity. The false mem-  
 brane is generally confined to the trachea in those  
 cases that have been severe and rapid in their  
 course. The inner surface of the epiglottis  
 not infrequently partakes of this morbid  
 formation and the rimpharynx is often  
 obstructed by it. Death is said to have taken  
 place when the mucous membrane was  
 covered merely by a secretion of pus, and with  
 the same phenomena as mark the progress of

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the disease when the false membrane is found to exist.

The impediment to the respiration in Croup, may be imputed in a great measure to the existence of this plastic production, together with the tumefaction of the lining Membrane of the trachea and bronchia. Not unfrequently portions of it, are detached and by remaining in the air passages, cause suffocation. In some instances it is coughed up, either in small pieces or in the form of a dense inspissated tube. When this takes place, the patient generally recovers. This membranous formation is considered by most pathologists to be inorganic; but like other plastic productions it is capable of becoming organized.

Having in a desultory manner given the pathological character of Croup, the next thing in order is to point out the remedies,

which may be found serviceable in the treatment of this affection.

There is no disease with which childhood has to contend, so formidable in its character, and none which in its progress may require more of the vital energies of the system to withstand. But notwithstanding its severity we find it yields, far more readily, to the action of infinitesimal doses of medicine, provided they be administered strictly in accordance with the Homoeopathic law of cure, - than when the ordinary method of bloodletting and emetics is resorted to. This method of reducing the little sufferer to the very portals of death, by the abstraction of blood the application of blisters, and the administration of large doses of tartar emetic and Calomel, renders the disease more formidable to treat, when the Homoeopathic physician is afterwards called in.

## Aconite Group.

This remedy when administered in accordance with the Homoeopathic law of cure occupies nearly the same position with the treatment of disease that the different forms of bloodletting are intended ~~to do~~ in the old practice, and rarely if ever fails to exert a happy influence over the general character of the disease, although it is not sufficient of itself to cure.

Aconite is particularly applicable in the inflammatory stage, especially as long as the nervous and vascular systems, are very much excited with burning heat, thirst, short and quick cough, accelerated breathing. Spasmodic, rough, crowing cough, also when accompanied with danger of suffocation and constriction of the throat. Anxious laboured sighing hurried and superficial breathing. Sort of Miller's Asthma with violent night cough characterized by a

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Hoarse crowing sound; danger of suffocation and  
Constriction of the trachea; Pain and soreness  
in the larynx.

### Ammonium Causticum Croup.

Increased secretion of mucus in the bronchiae.

Voice deep and weak; interrupted speech; Copious  
expectoration of mucus, especially after drinking, with  
violent cough; Difficult, rattling, laboured breathing;  
stertorous breathing; Suffocating fits; Spasms of  
the chest.

### Arsenicum Croup

Cough occasioned by a constrictive sensa-  
tion in the upper part of the trachea, similar <sup>to that which</sup> ~~is~~  
is caused by the vapor of Sulphur. Cough which  
is frequently quite dry, and short occasioned  
by a suffocative sensation in the larynx, similar  
<sup>to that which</sup> ~~is~~ is caused by the vapor of Sulphur. Cough  
especially after drinking. A cough which awakes  
the patient up at night; violent fits of coughing

almost causing suffocation, and bringing on swelling of the neck. Catarrh which comes on suddenly threatening suffocation..

### Belladonna Croup.

There is great soreness of the larynx with danger of suffocation, when feeling the gullet as well as when coughing. Speaking or breathing. Attack of spasmodic constriction of the larynx. Dry short cough, chiefly at night, or in the afternoon or evening, or hollow and barking. Catarrh with cough, coryza, hoarseness and tenacious mucus in the chest. Cough with expectoration of puslike mucus.

### Bryonia Croup

Hoarseness accompanied with ~~inflammation~~ <sup>irritation</sup> to perspire; Hoarse and rough voice; Dry cough excited by a tickling in the throat, or as if caused by smoke in the larynx. Cramp-like suffocating cough, particularly towards

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morning, or after taking food, and often with vomiting of ingesta; Cough with expectoration of yellowish matter.

### Bromine Croup.

Formation of false Membrane in the larynx and trachea. Spasms in the larynx occasioning suffocation; Hoarse wheezing cough not permitting the patient to utter a word; accompanied with sneezing; with violent fits of suffocation. Respiration characterized by mucus rattling; wheezing; alternately slow and suffocating, and hurried and superficial; laboured; painful; oppressed; gasping for air. Heat in the face.

### Carbo Animalis Croup.

Hoarseness early in the morning after rising; Hoarseness worse at night; Dry cough at night; Suffocating cough particularly in the evening after having slept.

## Austium Croup.

Rough hoarseness, morning and evening;  
Cough with short breath, and difficulty of  
respiration; Nocturnal cough; Dry hollow and  
shaking cough;

## Chamomilla Croup.

Catarrh, and hoarseness, with accumulation  
of mucus in the throat. Catarrhal hoarseness;  
Dry cough, produced by a constant titillation in  
the larynx, particularly at night, and sometimes  
attended with suffocation; Expectoration of mucus  
of a bitter or putrid taste.

## Cuprum Croup.

Continual, hoarseness not permitting  
the patient to utter a word; Cough which arrests  
the breathing; Cough with interrupted, almost  
suppressed respiration. Dry cough with fits of  
suffocation like whooping cough.

Sulphate of Copper in large doses has

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been administered in the last stage of croup for  
the purpose of inducing expulsion of the false  
membrane, and preventing suffocation; this  
has frequently succeeded.

### *Grosera Croup.*

Hoarseness, and very low voice.  
Cough and hoarseness; Cough at night and  
in the evening immediately after lying down;  
Dry spasmodic cough with inclination to vomit;  
Cough with vomiting of mucus; Cough with  
expectoration of purulent matter and pain  
in the lower part of the chest.

### *Hepar Sulphuris Croup.*

Pain and great sensibility of the Larynx  
with hoarseness; Suffocating cough with  
inclination to vomit. Deep and dull cough,  
excited by difficulty of respiration; Cough induced  
by drinking; Dry cough particularly in the evening;  
Dry, rough, and hollow cough, with anguish

and suffocation, often causing the patient to weep;  
Barking cough; Cough with expectoration of  
mucus.

### Iodine Croup.

Inflammation of the Larynx and Trachea  
with contraction, sore pain. Hoarseness  
particularly in the morning. Copious secretion  
of mucus in the trachea. Pain in the Larynx.  
Aching and prickling pain in the Larynx and  
Sublingual glands; Cough particularly in the  
morning; Cough with expectoration of mucus  
Dry cough. Roughness of the Trachea which  
lasts for one day.

### Specaenantha. Croup.

Cough especially at night. Dry cough,  
excited by a contractive tickling in the Larynx  
extending to the extremity of the bronchia. Dry  
Shaking and spasmodic Cough with fits of  
Suffocation, stiffness of the body and bluish face.

## Natural Muricatum Croup

Rough voice with a scraping sensation in the larynx. Hoarseness early in the morning. Rough, hoarse, short, and barking cough. Suffocating cough, day and night. Soreness in the larynx and trachea when coughing.

## Silic Acid Croup

Stinging pain in the larynx with hoarseness and cough. Sharp scraping sensation in the trachea. Roughness of the larynx and trachea when taking in inspiration. Hoarseness preventing speech. Cough with titillation and soreness in the throat. Cough especially at night when sleeping. Cough dry cough before midnight. Cough only in the day. Barking cough particularly in the evening.

## Opium Croup

Hoarseness as if caused by an accumulation of mucus in the trachea with great dryness

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of the mouth. Dry hollow cough aggravated  
by repose. Cough with suspended respiration  
and blue color of the face.

### *Phosphorus Croup.*

Hoarseness and scraping in the throat which  
lasts for several days. Pain in the Larynx. Expectoration  
of mucus from the Larynx. Cough especially  
violent when taking either cold or warm drink,  
Cough with stinging pain in the Larynx.

### *Spongia Croup.*

Hoarseness accompanied with cough  
and coryza. Pain in the Larynx on touching  
it or turning the head. Sensation of obstruction  
in the Larynx, with impeded respiration. Soreness  
in the throat. Burning pain in the Larynx and trachea.  
Cough with yellowish expectoration and hoarseness.  
Hollow, dry, barking cough, day and night,  
increased towards evening, and soreness with

pain in the Larynx. Dry Cough accompanied with burning in the Larynx;

### Sulphur Croup

Roughness and Scraping in the Throat accompanied with hoarseness. Voice hoarse and low or entirely extinct. Sensation as if the Larynx were swollen or as if there were a foreign body in it. Dry Cough particularly in the evening with Vomiting. Cough with expectoration of mucus of a yellowish color. Cough with rattling in the Trachea.

### Starvation-imitic Croup.

The Larynx is painful to the touch; Hoarseness; Paroxysms of coughing with suffocating obstruction of respiration; Cough with vomiting of mucus; Hollow Cough, with rattling of mucus in the Chest; Cough, with expectoration of mucus, sometimes at night only, principally after midnight.